

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 01989 201320Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, CVIS, CY

SUBJECT: GOC POLICY ON ENTRY VIA ILLEGAL PORTS, PASSPORT FOR TURK
CYPRIOTS

1. GOC DIRECTOR OF MIGRATION KARACOULAS TOLD EMBOFF JUNE 19 THAT HE HAS RECOMMENDED GOVERNMENT RELAX ITS RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGNERS WHO INADVERTENTLY ENTER ISLAND VIA TURKISH CONTROLLED PORT. ACCORDING KARACOULAS, INCREASING NUMBER OF BONA FIDE TOURISTS, PRIMARILY FROM NORTHERN EUROPE, ARE BEING ROUTED THROUGH ERCAN AIRPORT ON MIDDLE EAST TOURS.

2. TYPICAL CASE WAS RECENT ARRIVAL OF AMERICAN CITIZEN WHO PURCHASED TICKET IN GERMANY ROUTING HIM INTO ISLAND FROM ISTANBUL VIA ERCAN; EXITING FROM LARNACA FOR BEIRUT. IN THIS INSTANCE, AND FEW OTHERS, KARACOULAS WAS ABLE OBTAIN MINISTERIAL APPROVAL FOR INDIVIDUAL

TO ENTER GOC-CONTROLLED TERRITORY WITHOUT INCURRING LEGAL PENALTY.

3. KARACOULAS WAS UNWILLING BE SPECIFIC ON HIS RECOMMENDATION FOR RELAXATION OF CONTROLS PENDING MINISTERIAL APPROVAL. NEVERTHELESS, HE THOUGHT SITUATION WOULD EASE SHORTLY.

4. ON PASSPORTS FOR TURK CYPRIOTS INTENDING TRAVEL TO UNITED STATES KARACOULAS WAS LESS FLEXIBLE. HE INSISTED EACH APPLICANT WOULD

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PAGE 02 NICOSI 01989 201320Z

HAVE TO VISIT MIGRATION OFFICE TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR

TRAVEL DOCUMENT.

KARACOULAS SUGGESTED UNFICYP BE APPROACHED TO PROVIDE ESCORT FOR PASSPORT APPLICANTS FROM LEDRA PALACE CHECKPOINT TO MINISTRY. HE IMPLIED THAT TURK CYPRIOTS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO EXIT ISLAND VIA GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PORT.

5. COMMENT: WE DOUBT WHETHER THIS PROCEDURE WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO TURK CYPRIOT VISA APPLICANTS, TFSC OFFICIALS WILL CERTAINLY SEEK PREVENT THEIR COMPATRIOTS FROM COMPLYING. IF GOC INSISTS ON PERSONAL APPEARANCES FOR PASSPORT APPLICANTS WE COULD SHORTLY FACE HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM WITH VISA APPLICANTS WHO HAVE COMPELLING REASONS VISIT US FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT, ETC.
CRAWFORD

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